Meetings

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollentine-Evergreen Community Action Association

House Notes

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The area was found to be in generally good condition according to Housing Improvement Director DICK HOLLADAY, with most of the identified deficiencies being minor. The table below lists the categories of structural conditions recorded and the number of households in each category. "Buildings" refers to the structures; "units" refers to the actual number of dwelling units. (Hence, a duplex would count as one building and two units.)

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<tr>
<td>O.K.</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>88%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conserve</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitate</td>
<td>5%</td>
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As can be seen, most of the 650 buildings and 754 units were in sound condition in this part of the community. This means that they meet minimum standards set in the City’s housing code. Hopefully, residents will maintain their homes at a level above the minimum. Those structures that are in the conserve and rehabilitation categories are characterized by a range of problems from several minor deficiencies to one or major deficiencies. In these cases legal proceedings are initiated by the City with the owners and/or occupants required to make amends within a specified time period.

The housing inspectors also noted certain other characteristics of the area’s dwelling units. Most of the units (66%) are owner-occupied while the remainder are renter-occupied. Thirty units (4%) are occupied by black families with two-thirds of these owning their homes. There were 33 vacant units in the inspected area at the time.

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Crime?

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* How prevalent is crime in the neighborhood?
* What areas of the neighborhood have the highest rates of crime?
* Who is committing these crimes?
* Is crime getting worse?
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Invited to discuss these topics are:

* A policeman who operates in a prowl car in the neighborhood area
* A policeman involved with the crime watch program
* A juvenile probation official to discuss ways of dealing with thefts by juveniles

IT IS TIME TO START DISCUSSION ABOUT A NEIGHBORHOOD-WIDE CRIME-PREVENTION PROGRAM.

If you are concerned about this problem or if you have been victimized by a burglary, this meeting will provide some answers.

The meeting will be held on Sunday, November 14 at 3:00 p.m. at First United Lutheran Church (1542 Jackson). Enter through the Willett St. door.

Meetings

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A general VECAA meeting is also scheduled for Dec. 12. This meeting will deal with the important topic of education. Watch the News for further notice.

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The Mid-Memphis Improvement Association will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, Nov. 14. Interested parties can call George Bradfute at 272-2668 for further information.
Finish Line

On November 2 approximately 5,750 V.E. residents went to the polls to vote for, among other things, the President of the United States. This turnout was more than twice that recorded for the August 3 primary and reflected the interest that had been generated nationwide. As in past elections, the vote was generally split along racial lines with the neighborhood's white voters showing strong support for Republican candidates and black voters for Democrats. Ward 36 (including Precincts 36-1, 36-2, and 36-3) is the predominantly white voting division in our community, with 36-2 being the most racially mixed of the component precincts. Precincts 40-2 and 41-2 are racially mixed with the numerical advantage going to black voters.

In the major contest of this election, neighborhood voters displayed a pattern similar to that of the city and of the country. JIMMY CARTER won by a small margin over the Republican candidate, receiving 55% of the vote compared to GERALD FORD's 45%. The predominantly white precincts gave Ford the edge while the racially mixed precincts supported Carter by a 3 to 1 margin. In the other major race - for U.S. Senator - a similar pattern was displayed. Those precincts that supported Carter generally supported JIM SASSER (54%) while Ford supporters pushed BILL BROCK (46%) for the office.

A great deal of local interest centered on the contest for the seat in the U.S. House of Representatives occupied by HAROLD FORD. Neighborhood voters were split almost evenly between Ford and challenger A.D. ALISSANDRATOS. The former received 2,834 (40.8%) votes while the latter received 2,758 (40.2%). Independent candidate MARK FLANAGAN accounted for only 83 votes from the neighborhood.

In both races for the State Senate that involved the neighborhood, the two incumbents were returned by a safe margin. In District 30 (including Ward 36) JIM WHITE, running against MIKE TOOLEY, received 58% of the neighborhood vote and will be returned to Nashville. District-wide his winning margin was 5 to 2. In District 28 (including Precincts 40-2 and 41-2) ED GILLOCK soundly defeated opponents SIMION and PETREMAN while receiving 78% of our community's vote.

Two elections were also held for State Representative although HARPER BREWER, Jr., the incumbent in District 38 (including 40-2 and 41-2), was unopposed. In District 89 incumbent PAM GAIA won over challenger TOM ROBERTSON by a 2 to 1 margin in Ward 36. This was somewhat closer than her winning edge district-wide.

Two other contests of note were for the offices of County Court Squire and City Court Clerk. In the County Court race V.E. residents favored the eventual county-wide winner CLAIRE VANFER SCHEAFF. Scheaff received about 55% of the vote in this county race. Runners-up included RICH SCHAFER, former owner of University Park Cleaners, and JAMES WOOD. CARRIE MOORE was the leading candidate in the city-wide contests. In the race for County Court Clerk, V.E. residents supported loser ROBERT ALLISON by a slight margin.

Neighbors Plan

The Memphis and Shelby County Planning Commission is currently undertaking a complete revision of the Memphis and Shelby County Zoning Regulations in consultation with Mr. RICHARD BACCOCK and his associates, nationally recognized zoning attorneys. To date Mr. Babcock has critically evaluated the present zoning regulations, interviewed a cross-section of local citizens concerned with land use, and has identified twenty major issues concerning land use control and related practices and policies in Memphis and Shelby County which must be discussed prior to drafting a new zoning ordinance.

In order to provide the in-depth policy direction and guidance required for the new zoning ordinance the Planning Commission has directed that a Land Use Controls Advisory Task Force be established to review the recommendations of the consultant and provide policy direction to the Planning Commission.

BOB MILLER, director of the Planning Commission, has asked VECOA president MIKE KIRBY to serve on this task force. Mike has also been asked to act as the chairman of the subcommittee on implementation. This subcommittee deals with procedures for processing zoning applications, enforcement of zoning regulations and the legal status of neighborhood plans. What is done by this subcommittee will affect neighborhoods such as ours for the next thirty years.
Around The Neighborhood

RAY and ANN WALSH of 930 N. Avalon have recently opened a new shop called the "Green Gorilla". The shop at 103 Court Square features houseplants, dried flowers, macrame and pottery.

CAROL SAMS of 985 Oakmont Place currently is presenting an exhibition of her paintings at the Wolf River Society downtown. Ms. Sams has a B.F.A. degree from the University of Tennessee and is a member of several watercolor societies. She has presented eight exhibits of her work and won two major awards.

The Lewis Center for Senior Citizens at 118 S. Parkway will hold its annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet on Tuesday, November 30. All volunteers who have contributed 25 hours or more at the Center during the past year will be honored.

The Lewis Center is also holding an Indoor Flea Market on Thursday, November 18. Items for sale from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. include art, crafts, plants, baked goods and collectible junk.

The Reverend PAT S. WRIGHT is now serving as minister of Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church at 1663 Tutwiler. Mr. Wright was pastor of the Eastminster Church here in Memphis for nine years. He has served the Lindsay Church as Interim Pastor in the past, and has worked directly and indirectly with the congregation for many years. He is "at home" in his Lindsay pastorate and desires to work through VECAA and other groups in the community. Services at Lindsay include Church School at 9:45 a.m. and Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

Volunteers Needed

For the past seven years many adult volunteers from the Memphis community have had rewarding experiences working one-to-one with seniors at Northside High School. Volunteers supplement the work of school guidance counselors in post-high school planning with the senior students. Interest and dependability are the qualifications for volunteer participation...training in specifics and continuing support are provided by Memphis Volunteer Placement. Each year large numbers of students apply for the service. WE NEED YOU. Please call Dot Bailey, Volunteer Coordinator, at 774-7504 for information.

Circulation

The distribution of the Evergreen News has been taken over by the recently-reactivated VECAA communications committee and various improvements are being made to assure fast and thorough circulation. JOE HOUGH, chairman of this committee, wants anyone who is not receiving the News on a regular basis or who wants to deliver on his street to call him at 274-5551.
The Evergreen News

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Not to be placed in mailboxes

Memphis, Tennessee
5 November, 1976
Volume VI, Number 11
Circulation: 5000